

REMARKS:

I. General

Claims 3-6, 8-16 and 18 - 22 are pending in the application. The issues in the Office Action mailed December 14, 2007 are as follows:

- Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Satoh.
- Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Bessel.
- Claims 14, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Miner et al.
- Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Beauchamp or Hekman.
- Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Beauchamp or Hekman and further in view of Minor.

Applicant hereby traverses the outstanding rejections and objections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

II. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Satoh.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Satoh.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Therefore all claim elements, and their limitations, must be found in the prior art reference to maintain a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 3-4 include limitations of an extractor having an elongated slot opening and *being in contact with the cleaning medium*. Additionally, claims 3-4 include limitations of revolving the wetted portion of the cleaning medium away *from contact with the slot opening* and toward contact with the surface intended to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as vacuum extractor 6 *is not in contact with the cleaning medium*. Additionally, Satoh does not disclose revolving the wetted portion of the cleaning medium away *from contact with the slot opening* and toward contact with the surface intended to be cleaned.

Claims 8 and 11-13 are directed to methods wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted using the extractor, *revolved out of contact with the extractor*, and then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extractor 6 *is not revolved into and out of contact with the cleaning medium*. .

Claims 15-16, 18 and 20 are directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted through the slot opening of the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as cleaning medium 2 is *not revolved into* and out of contact with a slot opening of vacuum extractor 6.

As Satoh does not teach or suggest every limitation of claims 3-6, 8, 11-13, 18, 20, reconsideration of the rejection under 102(b) is requested.

III. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Besel.

It is submitted that the combination of Satoh and Besel, even if proper, would fail to yield all limitations of the present invention. In particular, neither Satoh nor Besel teaches or suggests all claim limitations. Claims 9-10 are directed to methods wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted using the extractor, *revolved out of contact with the extractor*, and then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extractor 6 *is not revolved into and out of contact with the cleaning medium*.

As the combination of Satoh and Besel does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 9-10, reconsideration of the rejection under 103(a) is requested.

IV. Claims 14, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Miner et al.

It is submitted that the combination of Satoh and Miner et al, even if proper, would fail to yield all limitations of the present invention.

Regarding claim 14, neither Satoh nor Miner et al. teaches or suggests all claim limitations. Claim 14 is directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted using the extractor, *revolved out of contact with the extractor*, and then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extractor *6 is not revolved into and out of contact with the cleaning medium*. As the combination of Satoh and Miner et al does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 14, reconsideration of the rejection under 103(a) is requested.

Regarding claims 21, the combination of Satoh and Miner et al. fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations. Claim 21 is directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted through the slot opening of the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Satoh is incapable of performing such a method as cleaning medium 2 *is not revolved into and out of contact with a slot opening of vacuum extractor 6*. As the combination of Satoh and Miner et al does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 21, reconsideration of the rejection under 103(a) is requested.

V. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Beauchamp or Hekman.

Claim 19 is directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted through the slot opening of the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The combination of Satoh, Beauchamp or Hekman, even if proper, would fail to yield such a method as cleaning medium 2 *is not revolved into and out of contact with a slot opening of vacuum extractor 6*.

- VI. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Beauchamp or Hekman and further in view of Miner.

Claim 22 is directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, *revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor*, vacuum extracted through the slot opening of the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The combination of Satoh, Beauchamp or Hekman and Miner et al., even if proper, would fail to yield such a method as cleaning medium 2 is *not revolved into* and out of contact with a slot opening of vacuum extractor 6.

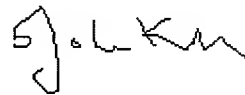
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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